

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, AORG, NI, UR

SUBJECT: ILO - NIGERIAN MOTIVES ON ILO VOTE

REF: LAGOS 6970

1. FYI DEPARTMENT IS GRATIFIED THAT KOKU APPARENTLY VALUES HIS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES SO HIGHLY THAT HE TOOK INITIATIVE TO NEUTRALIZE RESENTMENT WE MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE BORNE HIM BECAUSE OF HIS ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND STANDARDS THAT PLACED THE USSR ON THE SPECIAL LIST FOR FAILURE TO BRING ITS LEGISLATION INTO LINE WITH AN ILO CONVENTION IT HAD RATIFIED. WE WISH TO
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PRESERVE OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH KOKU. HE IS A CAPABLE,

EXPERIENCED, AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPANT IN ILO AFFAIRS, AND WE BELIEVE HIS VIEWS CARRY WEIGHT WITH OTHER AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR FUTURE WORKING RELATIONSHIP NOT BE HAMPERED. END FYI.

2. EMBASSY MAY REPLY TO KOKU, STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES HIS COURTESY IN EXPLAINING THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE VOTE IN QUESTION. WE WERE UNAWARE THAT MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE NIGERIAN POSITION WAS RELATED TO GENERAL GOWON'S VISIT TO THE USSR, AND THIS VIEW WAS NOT HELD BY THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION.

3. WE NOTE THAT KOKU AGREED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT HE ABSTAINED BECAUSE HE FELT THE USSR SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO CORRECT THE DEFICIENCIES IN ITS LEGISLATION THAT THE REPORT CITED. WE PRESUME, THEREFORE, THAT SHOULD THE USSR NOT CORRECT THESE DEFICIENCIES, AND SHOULD THE COMMITTEE AGAIN PLACE THEM ON THE SPECIAL LIST, THUS GIVING THEM THE SECOND CHANCE THAT SOME DELEGATES FELT IT HAD BEEN DENIED THIS YEAR, THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATES, UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, WOULD SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. KISSINGER

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